

April 7, 2009

**OBEY IN WESTON FOR UPDATE
ON PLANS FOR SCHOFIELD AVENUE EXPANSION** □□

WESTON, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Weston today for an update on plans to use \$950,000 in federal funds he secured in the omnibus appropriations bill just signed into law to help expand Schofield Avenue between Ryan Street and County Highway J to four lanes. This project brings to over \$100 million that Congressman Obey has secured for the Wausau region in recent years for transportation improvements, including the development of the Hwy. 29 Interchange and CWA Airport.

“The basic building blocks for community growth, like access to clean water, and good roads cost a lot even in the best of times. And these certainly aren't the best times,” Obey said. “So I'm glad we were able to get these dollars to help move this project along and reduce the burden that would otherwise fall on local property-tax payers.”

Schofield Avenue is the Village of Weston's main traffic artery. Unlike most of the avenue, the mile and a half stretch between Ryan Street and County Highway J is only two-lanes, and with the new business park and two new schools - DC Everest Middle and Mountain Bay Elementary - located on that stretch, the road has to accommodate 15,000 to 17,000 cars a day.

Expanding this segment of Schofield Avenue to four-lanes is intended to help improve safety, particularly for students, and enhance local economic development efforts. For that reason, this project was one of the top priorities for the Metropolitan Planning Organization, a transportation consortium of local municipalities and Marathon County.

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